Chapter 2

Bibliographic Relationships

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Abstract:

The realm of conceptual modeling of the bibliographic universe presents another view of the theoretical foundations of bibliographic relationships as reflected in cataloging rules and practices. Linking devices used to indicate bibliographic relationships in past and present catalogs will continue to evolve with changes in technologies that are used to create catalogs.

1. BACKGROUND

For centuries, librarians have created catalogs with the intention of enabling persons to find what they are looking for by author, title, or subject. This includes bringing all the works of an author together and all editions of a work together, as well as bringing together all the materials on a given subject (Cutter, 1904; Lubetzky, 1969; O’Neill & Vizine-Goetz, 1989). Library catalogs are even intended to help a person choose material by edition or literary or topical character as documented by Cutter (1904, p. 12). Cutter’s objectives of the catalog are accomplished using the cataloging convention of author/title entries with uniform headings to collocate all the works of an author.

Catalogs have also provided a surrogate method of navigating among the materials in a library’s collections or the entire bibliographic universe, through bibliographic and authority records that indicate relationships among the various materials. Some of these relationships are implicit while others are explicit and have been conveyed through various linking devices. Linking devices continue to evolve with the changes in technologies used to create catalogs (Tillett, 1992a). Before looking at linking devices, we shall consider the basic bibliographic relationships.

Tillett’s (1987) analysis of cataloging rules led to the identification of categories of relationships that have been provided in the Anglo-American tradition. Her taxonomy identified seven types of bibliographic relationships derived from this analysis of cataloging rules as follows:

- **Equivalence relationships**, which hold between exact copies of the same manifestation of a work or between an original item and reproductions of it, so long as the intellectual content and authorship are preserved. Included here are copies, issues, facsimiles and reprints, photocopies, microforms, and other similar
reproductions.

- **Derivative relationships** (called horizontal relationships in UNIMARC, 1994), which hold between a bibliographic work and a modification based on the work. These include:
  - Variations or versions of the work, such as editions, revisions, translations, summaries, abstracts, and digests;
  - Adaptations or modifications that become new works but are based on the earlier work;
  - Changes of genre, as with dramatizations and novelizations; and
  - New works based on the style or thematic content of the work, as with free translations, paraphrases, imitations, and parodies.

- **Descriptive relationships**, which hold between a bibliographic entity and a description, criticism, evaluation, or review of that entity, such as that between a work and a book review describing it; also included are annotated editions, casebooks, commentaries, critiques, etc.

- **Whole-part (or part-whole) relationships** (called vertical relationships in UNIMARC or hierarchical relationships in Goossens & Mazur-Rzesos, 1982), which hold between a bibliographic entity and a component part of the entity, as is the case between an anthology and an individual selection taken from it or between a series and one of its volumes.

- **Accompanying relationships**, which hold between bibliographic entities and their accompanying materials. In some cases one entity is predominant and the other subordinate to it, as is the case between a text and its supplements or between one bibliographic entity and another which provides access to it (e.g., concordances, indexes, catalogs of libraries). In other cases the entities are of equal status but have no specific chronological arrangement, as is the case with parts of a kit.

- **Sequential relationships** (called chronological relationships in UNIMARC), which hold between bibliographic entities that continue or precede one another, as between the successive titles of a serial, sequels of a monograph, or among the various parts of a numbered series.

- **Shared characteristic relationships**, which hold between bibliographic entities that are not otherwise related but coincidentally have a common author, title, subject, or other characteristic used as an access point in a catalog, such as a shared language, date of publication, or country of publication (Tillett, 1987, pp. 24-25; Tillett, 1991; Goossens & Mazur-Rzesos, 1982; UNIMARC, 1994).

This taxonomy indicates requirements for relationships that can be used when designing and building bibliographic systems.\(^1\)

### 2. IFLA MODEL

Since Tillett’s 1987 analysis there have been several modeling exercises described in the literature, most significantly those that led to the IFLA *Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records* (IFLA, 1998; ELAG, 1999). These exercises suggested a new